WE CLAIM

1.   A method of encoding digital representations of works comprising the following steps:

5 a) providing a digital representation of a work, and

b) removing pieces of information from said digital representation in a predetermined pattern.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said pieces of information comprise digital samples.

10 3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined pattern is repeated.

4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said work is a digital representation of any of the following; audio information, image information, and text
15 information.

5.   The method according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of inserting padding information after the step of removing pieces of information.

6.   The method according to claim 1, comprising the
20 steps of:

- ordering said work by a customer;

- identification by said customer;

- retrieving a true original digital representation of said work;

- making a customer original digital representation of said work which is identical to said true original digital representation;

5 - removing pieces of information from said customer original digital representation in a predetermined pattern;

- providing said customer with said customer original digital representation.

7.   A method of decoding digital representations of
10 works comprising the following steps:

a) synchronizing a customer original digital representation of a work with a true original digital representation of a work,

b) identifying a first piece of information missing in
15   said customer original digital representation as compared with said true original digital representation,

c) recording an identification of said first piece of information missing;

20 d) identifying and recording second and further pieces of information missing in said customer original digital representation by repeating steps b) and c) above.

8.   The method according to claim 7, comprising the
25 additional step of making a pre-analysis of said customer original digital representation for identity before the step of synchronizing.

9.   The method according to claim 7, comprising the additional step of envelope reconstruction before the step of identifying a first piece of information missing in order to restore the customer original digital representation caused by prior compression.

10.   The method according to claim 7, comprising the additional step of enhancing the transparency of a distorted customer original with the true original digital representation of a work,

11.   The method according to claim 7, comprising the additional step of verifying the encoding by means of a check sum.

12.   An apparatus for performing encoding of digital representations of works comprising:

- means for providing a digital representation of a work, and

- means for removing pieces of information from said digital representation in a predetermined pattern.

13.   An apparatus for decoding digital representations of works comprising:

- means for synchronizing a customer original digital representation of a work with a true original digital representation of a work,

- means for identifying a first, second and further pieces of information missing in said customer original digital representation as compared with said true original digital representation, and

- means for recording an identification of said first, second, and further pieces of information missing.